

## **Resolution #26 - Churches for Middle East Peace**

**Subject: Churches for Middle East Peace**

**From: Ecumenism Ministry Group**

**WHEREAS**, the Moravian Church has had a presence in ministry and mission in the region of Palestine and Israel for approximately 125 years and operates the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center, located near Ramallah;

**WHEREAS**, in Psalm 122:6-7 there is a call to "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers;'"

**WHEREAS**, the 2002 Synod of the Southern Province of the Moravian Church adopted a resolution that:

1. Calls upon the leadership of Israel and the Palestinian Authority to put an immediate end to violence;
2. Expresses individual and collective commitments to communicate messages of peace and just resolution of the conflict through non-violent means to the leadership of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and the United States;
3. Directs that information concerning the Moravian work and mission at Star Mountain and the surrounding region be distributed to all congregations;

**WHEREAS**, the 2002 Synod of the Southern Province established a Day of Prayer for Star Mountain and a just and lasting peace between our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land;

**WHEREAS**, the 2002 Unity Synod called for a letter to leaders in Palestine and Israel that included the following text:

We urge both sides to end violence and enter into negotiations as soon as possible in order to achieve justice and peace for all people in that area, by working towards a viable two state solution, which guarantees the principles of pluralism, good governance, and respect for human rights.

We on our side will continue to pray for that goal, and we shall encourage our churches and congregations to strengthen the existing bonds with the people in Palestine and Israel by exploring various expressions of solidarity with the people in that area.

**WHEREAS**, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) is a coalition of 21 public policy offices of national churches and agencies -- Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant -- which seeks to help its members advocate in a knowledgeable, timely and effective way their concerns about justice and peace for all people and countries in the region;

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of CMEP is to give witness to principles of peace and justice in the Middle East on behalf of its religious constituencies, recognizing and embodying the policy statements of those various bodies. Generally, CMEP will advocate positions that:

1. realize the vision of a region where two viable states, Israel and Palestine, live side-by-side within secure and recognized borders;
2. promote the sharing of an undivided Jerusalem by the two peoples -- Israelis and Palestinians -- and by the three religious communities that call it sacred;
3. encourage negotiated, just, and peaceful resolutions to conflicts in the region;
4. promote the right of people to live in peace and security, free of fears of harassment, oppression, and violence;
5. encourage the demilitarization of conflicts and help to establish the Middle East as a region free of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons;
6. foster respect for human rights based on full observance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human rights covenants of the United Nations, and the Geneva Conventions;
7. encourage equitable development and humanitarian assistance to the region by the United States and other nations;
8. promote the rights, and meet the humanitarian needs, of refugees and displaced persons in the region;
9. support the United Nations in playing an important role in seeking a just resolution of problems and the maintenance of a region without conflict;
10. recognize the religious importance of the region to Jews, Christians, and Muslims and protect the religious freedom of all; and

**WHEREAS**, Churches for Middle East Peace has the following expectations of Associate Members: 1. agreement with CMEP's mission statement 2. annual financial contribution (\$1000 is requested) 3. support for CMEP education and advocacy work as able; therefore be it

**RESOLVED, That** the Moravian Church in America, Southern Province, become an associate member of Churches for Middle East Peace as a way of providing information for members to be advocates for peace, justice, and security for all people in the region of Israel and Palestine; and

**RESOLVED, That** the PEC invite the Moravian Church, Northern Province, to join us in a single associate membership.